#### **Ecumenical News International**

Nouvelles œcuméniques internationales Okumenische Nachrichten International Noticias Ecuménicas Internacionales



# Bulletin

January to December 2004

Published by Ecumenical News International (ENI), an independent news agency covering religious, ecumenical and humanitarian affairs. Editorial team: Peter Kenny, Stephen Brown, Valerie Medri. All articles © Ecumenical News International. Reproduction permitted only to media subscribers and provided ENI is acknowledged as the source. ENI is an Association under Swiss law whose members include the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, and the Conference of European Churches. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Association or its members. Printed in Switzerland.

ISSN 1420-4126

#### ABORIGINES

ABORIGINES
Canadian churches plan campaign on violence against Aboriginal women03-0079 Australian church leaders condemn abolishment of body for Aborigines08-0279 WCC leader attacks Australia on asylum-seekers and Aboriginal people13-0408 WCC's Kobia to meet Canada's Aboriginal communities
ABORTION
Kerry, Vatican discord elevates abortion issue in US election campaign08-0275 Spat over US bishop rocks African Methodists in Zambia
AFGHANISTAN
Religious freedom tenuous in Iraq and Afghanistan, US commission finds 10-0330
AFRICA
WCC general secretary says his election boosts confidence of Africans01-0036 African churches examine possibility of launching a Christian bank04-0110 Leaders at African inter-faith summit pledge to curb violence
AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)
S. Africa's Tutu and Mbeki in row after ANC called 'sycophantic'
AFRICAN UNION (AU)
S. African government complicit in Zimbabwe abuses, says archbishop 13-0421 African church body concerned at killing of 160 people in Burundi 16-0535 Protection racket shelters Zimbabwe, says former SA Methodist leader 23-0786
AGRICULTURE
Christians show interest in Israel's 'Holy Virgin' lily
AID AGENCIES
Relief agencies face long haul in rebuilding Iranian city of Bam

Obasanjo condemns corruption, homosexuality in speech to bishops Nigeria's Catholics and Pentecostals back condemnation of homosexuality Christians mourn Arafat's loss to Palestinians; see risk, opportunity Map of Africa needs revising to bring peace, says retired Anglican leader African Anglican bishops call on US and Canadian churches to repent Nigerian Anglican leader lauds Bush for stand on same-sex marriages Canada's Anglican bishops respond to same-sex blessing issue Church of England set for decision on women bishops Central African Anglican cleric wants gay priest supporters out	21-0707 22-0735 22-0742 22-0743 22-0744 22-0745 22-0750
ANIMALS	
UK churches pray for slaughtered animals  Monks criticised for muzzling canine tradition in the Swiss Alps	20-0700 21-0733
ANNIVERSARIES & FESTIVALS	
India's churches to commemorate Protestant missionaries in 2006  Pope's 25 years mark signs of change in church  Ten years on, South Africa and its churches face challenges  Christians decry expulsion order against Dutch priest in Kashmir  60 years on, all denominations invited to Canada's ecumenical table  Dutch cathedral's 750 years marked with construction of scaffolding  Mark D-Day anniversary in France by promoting peace, say churches  Anti-Hitler plot anniversary prompts church debate  Anti-Nazi theologian Bonhoeffer remembered in Denmark  From Afganistan to Zimbabwe, ENI covers it  Russian religious leaders call for scrapping of Bolshevik day  Orthodox chuch leaders celebrate Bulgarian Patriarch's birthday	04-0127 08-0280 09-0286 09-0293 10-0341 10-0344 14-0477 19-0655 19-0662 20-0678
ANTI-SEMITISM	
Polish church leader dismisses complaint about 'anti-Semitic' bookshop Palestinian bishop lambastes growing anti-Semitism in world US State Department worried by rising anti-Semitism in Europe	17-0567
APARTHEID	
South African church leaders liken Zimbabwe situation to apartheid Tutu calls for damages from companies trading with apartheid S. Africa South African apartheid foe Denis Hurley dies at 88 Mathematician, Quaker, apartheid foe wins biggest cash prize Ten years on, South Africa and its churches face challenges South African council admits church that once justified apartheid South African Presbyterian leader pledges help to Zambia, Zimbabwe South African Beyers Naude chose lonely path against apartheid Tutu said God showed humour picking Beyers Naude to fight apartheid WCC honours Programme to Combat Racism and its first director Killing of S.African Dutch Reformed leader unsolved after 10 years	03-0073 04-0133 06-0211 08-0280 14-0466 14-0471 18-0630 19-0643
APOSTOLIC	
Latin American 'Apostles' stir up debate over God's mandate	15-0527
<u>APPOINTMENTS</u>	
Israel approves election of Greek Orthodox patriarch	04-0129 07-0227 08-0269

Bishop elected by Maori church heads New Zealand, Polynesia Anglicans	5 8 0 2 1 1 0 8 1 1 8 8 8 8
ARGENTINA	
Draft law for schools sex instruction splits Argentine churches 23-0787	7
ARMS	
Canadian Lutheran bishop rejects Bush call on missile defence 24-0817	7
ARSON	
Anglican bishop urges dialogue after Zanzibar church torching 21-0719	9
<u>ART</u>	
Major Byzantine art exhibition proves a hit in New York	3
<u>ASIA</u>	
Harsh persecution of Christians rife in Asia, says Catholic report	6 4 7 8
<u>ATHEISM</u>	
Atheist asks US court to rule on schoolchildren's 'under God' pledge 06-0210 US court strikes down challenge to words 'Under God' in pledge 12-0381 Church and media in Bulgaria urged to overcome legacy of atheism 22-0753	1
AUSTRALIA	
Kobia says WCC will continue to deepen relations with Catholics	9 8 7 8 3 9 9

#### AUSTRIA

AUSTRIA
Austria's Cardinal Koenig praised for his 'pioneering ecumenism'
Uganda's Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative wins Niwano Prize. 04-0104 Nobel peace prize winner says Islam is a religion of peace and equality. 05-0139 Methodists look to bars for new guidance from younger generation. 05-0147 Mathematician, Quaker, apartheid foe wins biggest cash prize. 06-0211 Methodists award prizes for commandments hatched in cafes, bars. 07-0224 Web cathedral looks to Internet to promote 'stealth evangelism'. 10-0331 Bosnian bishop's Nobel nomination gets support of Orthodox, Muslims. 10-0337 Journalist from Alsace winner of European religion writer of the year. 11-0361 Award-winning film shows Kenya Danish culture clash. 12-0402 Ex-director of WCC Programme to Combat Racism gets S. African award. 12-0404 SE Asian journalists grapple with 'stereotypes' based on religion. 13-0436 Resistance to Hitler's tyranny earns past WCC leader German honour. 14-0444 Archbishop of Canterbury offers prize for theological writing. 14-0452 UK Catholic journalist granted award by Anglican leader. 14-0453 US Nobel laureate among recipients of Wittenberg Awards to Lutherans. 14-0476 Australian cleric turned politician gets Churches of Christ award. 16-0549 Israeli film maker clinches Ecumenical award at Montreal festival 18-0619 Connect to world, go to the cinema, Christians hear in Montreal 18-0632 WCC honours Programme to Combat Racism and its first director. 19-0644 WCC's Kobia salutes Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai. 20-0665 Lutheran bishop from Jerusalem receives Norwegian award. 21-0721
BALKANS
Balkan Catholic leaders look to cooperation with Orthodox church
BAPTIST
Religious rights group reports pressure against Baptists in Kazakhstan 15-0508 Baptists from around the world rally around Beslan families 18-0600 Baptist leader responds to criticism about China trip
BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE (BWA)
US Baptists want to break from 'too liberal' world alliance
BEATIFICATION
Austrian theologian criticises plans to beatify last Habsburg emperor 13-0433
BELARUS
German Lutherans protest against Belarus travel ban on children24-0791
BELGIUM
Belgian cardinal quotes commandment to back condom use as AIDS shield 01-0010

## BETHLEHEM

Tough times still blight Bethlehem's prospects
BIBLE
Churches flourish as Zimbabweans seek divine help in crisis
BIO-TECHNOLOGY/BIO-ETHICS
J. Robert Nelson, church unity and bioethics pioneer, dies at 83 15-0492
BLASPHEMY
'I am a committed Christian' says Zimbabwe rapper called blasphemer 08-0263 Pakistan Christians 'helpless' after blasphemy accused slain in custody 11-0366 Pakistani Christians say bid to amend blasphemy law is doomed 15-0501
BOOKS
Polish church leader dismisses complaint about 'anti-Semitic' bookshop
BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA
Bosnian bishop's Nobel nomination gets support of Orthodox, Muslims 10-0337
BOTSWANA
Bishops in Botswana decry voter apathy ahead of poll
BOYCOTTS
Tutu calls for England cricket boycott of Zimbabwe

Bishop criticises Zimbabwe poll reform, as opposition announces boycott17-0584 US pickle boycott ends with agreement to allow Mexicans union19-0638 Jewish groups condemn threat to US Presbyterian church over Israel23-0770
BRAZIL
Brazil's Zero Hunger project a modern 'feeding of 5000'
BRETTON WOODS INSTITUTIONS
World Bank, IMF and World Council of Churches to carry on talking 21-0708
BUDDHISM
Thai Buddhist retreat offers haven for all faiths
BULGARIA
Bulgaria settles with Jehovah's Witnesses preachers, allows them to stay 05-0143 Bulgarian church leader, former US representative, eulogised by president 06-0186 Orthodox urge prayers to save Bulgarians sentenced to death in Libya 09-0295 Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul court for dismissal of Bulgarian
BURMA (see MYANMAR)
BURUNDI
African church body concerned at killing of 160 people in Burundi 16-0535
CAMEROON
African church head worried about violence in Cameroon poll 20-0666
CANADA
Canadian churches plan campaign on violence against Aboriginal women

Canada's Anglican bishops respond to same-sex blessing issue
Bishops urge Zambian president: Go a step further, abolish death penalty06-0197 Orthodox urge prayers to save Bulgarians sentenced to death in Libya09-0295 Zambian Catholic bishops step up campaign against death penalty15-0497 Sri Lanka churches decry restored death penalty after judge slain24-0815
CHAPLAINS
Christians prepare to counsel and evangelise during Olympics
CHILD LABOUR
South Asia churches set up task force to fight child rights violations 18-0608
CHILD PROSTITUTION
Thai government, NGOs, World Vision link to fight sex tourism
<u>CHILDREN</u>
Dutch aid group says more than 1 million children detained worldwide
CHILE
Chile's Catholic and Evangelical leaders at odds over 'morning-after' pill. 10-0334 Evangelicals in Chile explain why they are burgeoning
<u>CHINA</u>
Russian conducts burial service for Beijing's 'last' Orthodox priest
CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA (CCA)
Christians decry expulsion order against Dutch priest in Kashmir

Corrupted churches need revitalising, Hong Kong meeting told 23-07	79
CHRISTIANITY	
Christian leaders in Pakistan threaten protests after killing of pastors01-00 Israeli legislators launch group to forge ties with Christians	066 294 405 446 483 505 512 513 574 558 761
CHRISTMAS	
Holy Land church leaders urge Israelis and Palestinians to make peace 01-00 Tough times still blight Bethlehem's prospects	004
CHURCH BUILDINGS/PROPERTY	
Church of England may sell off 'heavenly' homes and palaces	36 .79 .25 .37 .38 .41 .860 .893 .442 .443 .551 .571 .539 .310
CHURCH FESTIVALS	
German Lutheran bishop criticises Catholic stand on ecumenical services05-01 Indian Christians call for Good Friday to be reinstated as public holiday06-02	40
CHURCH & CULTURE/SOCIETY	
US debate on gay marriage proves tricky and divisive	129

German villagers flock to heavenly beer garden during summer	1
Support heartens Britain's 'Keep Sunday Special' campaigners	
Filipino bishop, Protestant council denounce Canadian mine threat 22-076	
Tilipino bibnop, Trocebeane coancil denoance canadian mine careacteristics.	
CHINDON /OTATE DELATIONS	
CHURCH/STATE RELATIONS	
Church, rights groups, EU urge Philippines to stay executions01-002	
Philippine Catholic Church sees politics behind Arroyo death penalty move 01-002	
Catholics and Anglicans decry the 'hell' of Nigeria's prisons	.4
Bishop, Nobel Laureate, and rights groups decry fuel tax in Nigeria 01-002	6
Malawi churches pray for the right president - and for rain	
South African church group slams 'shameful' silence on Zimbabwe01-003	
President, actor and evangelist square up in Philippine election01-004	
Zimbabwe church's gift to Mugabe stirs controversy	
Church leaders in Kenya warn government on infighting	
Kenya government wants Nairobi bishop to repay chaplain's allowance 02-005	
Church leaders chastise Malawi president for demeaning his deputy02-006	
Nigerian church body calls for ex-Liberian president to be extradited 02-006	
Nigerian agency wants churches to mobilise against fake medicines03-007	
Zimbabwe cleric warns Mugabe about God's punishment	
Church leaders call for 'clean election' in Sri Lanka	
Catholic priest rebuts charge he supports Uganda Lords Resistance Army 04-010	
Catholic bishop blasts Uganda for muzzling opposition parties	
South African clerics oversee election peace pact between political foes04-010	
Philippine church leaders seek to consolidate peace move with communists 04-011	
Danish court ponders case of church verger believing in reincarnation 05-014	
Indian churches caution against parties exploiting religion in elections 05-015	
Catholic bishop warns of instability if Philippine elections not credible 05-015	
Kenyan government halts slum demolitions, at the urging of churches05-015	
South African churches appeal to Mbeki to promote dialogue in Zimbabwe04-016	
Malawi-based archbishop warns clergy against taking part in politics 05-016	54
Ugandan Muslims oppose new bill, to dismay of government	55
Zambian church calls for 'more responsible' national budget	6
Head of Orthodox Church meets new Greek prime minister	35
S. African Deputy President in furore over likening ruling party to Jesus 06-019	
Zimbabwe pastor says gift to Mugabe has opened doors for dialogue06-019	
Nigerian church leaders fret over worsening political violence	
Nigerian church leaders warn violence may continue after council polls 06-020	
Canadian church leaders warn government over missile defence plan 06-021	
US church groups criticise Bush support for Israeli plan	
Zimbabwe clerics appeal for urgent government-opposition talks07-023	
Zimbabwe spurned Methodist's advice on land reform: newspaper	
Nigeria declares ecumenical centre, mosque national monuments 07-023	
Anglican bishop finds Easter message in Sri Lanka election result07-024	
Philippine church leaders lament betrayal of "People Power II" 07-024	
US church groups criticise Bush support for Israeli plan 08-025	3
Indian women's groups urge electors to vote out the prime minister 08-025	8
Philippine church leaders urge vote for competent president	50
Church alliance gives backing to Zimbabwe's 'clearout' of graft 08-026	
Bishops in Botswana decry voter apathy ahead of poll	
Danish court backs expulsion of Lutheran who believes in reincarnation 08-027	
Ecuador church leaders warn that toppling president is no panacea 08-027	
Anglican bishop in Panama warns against hyping electoral promises 08-027	
Australian church leaders condemn abolishment of body for Aborigines 08-027	
Elections are acid test for Philippine churches' influence on politics 09-030	
Nigerian cardinal backs removal of president's immunity	
Proshyterians play key role in court postponement of Malawi elections 10-031	8

Churches demand justice and safety from new Indian government	11-0364
Disband fraudulent elections' watchdog, demand Malawi clergy	11-0369
Philippine Catholic bishops caught between groups feuding over poll	
Volatile situation in Philippines worries Vatican, says bishop	12-0399
Philippine cardinal issues call for unity, protests continue over election.	13-0412
Indian Catholic leader hopeful after new government's assurances	13-0413
Bush campaign criticised for efforts to mobilise church supporters	
Kenyan churches and government vexed about serious food shortages	
Zambia government threatens to ban church group critical of president	13-0425
Malawi clergy divided over president's election reconciliation bid	13-0426
Philippine churches fight to close state-run gaming firm	
Churches applaud after Australian government shift on refugees	
Christians and Muslims pray for freedom of Filipino hostage in Iraq	14-0459
Filipino's release is an answer to prayer says Catholic archbishop	
Catholic cardinal asks S. Africa to consider sanctions against Zimbabwe	
Mbeki's 'quiet diplomacy' on Zimbabwe has failed, say SA churches	
South Africa's Mbeke urges Christians to support national agenda	
South African archbishop leads group to address Swaziland 'crisis'	
US parties hit hurdles in attempts at ties with religious communities	
Pakistani Christians say bid to amend blasphemy law is doomed	
Christians hail new PM's plan to support minorities in India	
Christian in Indian Hindu nationalist party wants to change its bias	
Church group hails Indian court to reopen Gujarat riot cases	
Evangelicals left on opposite sides in Venezuelan referendum	16-0534
African church group wants governments pressed on Sudan crisis	
Unbanned Oasis Forum dares Zambian president on constitution	16-0539
Zambian clerical, political leaders urge bishops to speak for poor	
S. Africa churches eye 'delivery to poor and justice' from government	16-0560
Senior Catholic wants status quo to remain in Liechtenstein	17-0570
Canadian churches and government at odds over 'sanctuary'for 'deportees'	17-0577
Philippine Archbishop calls on Catholics to give up wages to avoid crisis.	
Bishop criticises Zimbabwe poll reform, as opposition announces boycott	
Mugabe clashes with new Zimbabwe archbishop over human rights	
Malawi Presbyterians do U-turn on new president	
US Republicans show 2 faces of Christianity, 1 conservative, 1 liberal	
Australian churches quick off the mark as PM calls election	
Zimbabwe church groupings deplore government bids to split them	
Colombia's Presbyterian church denounces 'harassment' by authorities	
US Lutheran leader says presidential campaign skirts key issues	
Debate on whether to tax Philippine churches heats up	
Some Nigerian Christian leaders blame government for strike	
Church leaders in Kenya challenge call to forgive former rulers	20-0669
Arbitrary arrests irk Malawi clerics and spark fears of déjà vu	
Apostolic bishop calls for change of Zambian government in 2006	
Russian religious leaders call for scrapping of Bolshevik day	
Syrian Orthodox Patriarch bemoans mixing of politics and religion	
Brazil elections reveal religious competition	
Zimbabwean government moves to acquire church land	
Zambian president thwarts ambitions of ex-veteran tele-evangelist	
Christians mourn Arafat's loss to Palestinians; see risk, opportunity	
Kenya's police seek help of religious leaders to fight crime	
Church leaders warn of Kenya's chasm between poor and rich	
Churches split in urging peaceful solution to Ukraine crisis	
Ukrainian churches urge fair voting in presidential election	
Hungarian plan to cut church schools' aid sparks anger	
Churches in Ukraine swirl in political turmoil	
US academic at odds with some churches on sex abstinence	24-0798
S. Africa's Tutu and Mbeki in row after ANC called 'sycophantic'	24-0804
S. Africa's ANC tries to soften attack on Tutu	24-0805
Malawi president's call for rain prayers sparks fertiliser debate	24-0809

Christians in northern Nigeria say states thwart church building 24-0810 Canadian Lutheran bishop rejects Bush call on missile defence 24-0817
CIVIL SOCIETY
US church group embarks on campaign to register low-income voters. 02-0056 Zimbabwe bishop leads initiative to get voters to reject violence. 02-0056 Christians join activists in Mumbai to challenge globalisation. 02-0067 Christians join mumbai's carnival of social action. 02-0071 Zimbabwe pastors vow to defy the police and pray for their nation. 06-0194 Sudan churches, rebels and civil society in mediation to build peace. 06-0200 Sri Lankan churches call on voters to back religious freedom. 06-0209 Sudanese organizations march in Nairobi urging peace talks. 08-0265 Ask society before running up debt, church group tells Zambian leaders 08-0266 Indian churches hail the defeat of Hindu-nationalist government. 08-0285 German manual with no place for Jesus at Christmas draws flak. 09-0300 Swedish women use shares in companies to promote values. 12-0401 Head of US church body arrested in protest over Sudan. 14-0474 Palestinian wall hunger strike gets support of Christian volunteers. 14-0482 Finnish theologian forced out of US because of visa rule changes. 15-0489 US church leader, rights activist, business leader, dies aged 95. 16-0553 South African church body wants to act as Zimbabwe peace broker. 16-0561 German cardinal regrets nostalgia for communism. 18-0602 Church leaders in Africa warn of land conflict after Kenya dispute. 18-0610 Cambia's ongoing massive external loans worry debt relief group. 18-0610 Cambia's ongoing massive external loans worry debt relief group. 18-0610 Catholic bishops meet in Zimbabwe; Mugabe denies 'food for votes' 20-0663 African church head worried about violence in Cameroon poll. 20-0668 Prime Minister and Patriarch agree on no Serb vote in Kosovo. 20-0687 Finnish theologian forced out of US, returns on new visa. 20-0698 Prime Minister and Patriarch agree on no Serb vote in Kosovo. 20-0687 Finnish theologian forced out of US, returns on new visa. 20-0698 Prime Minister and Patriarch agree on no Serb vote in Kosovo. 20-0687 Finnish theologian forced out of US, returns on new visa. 20
<u>COLOMBIA</u>
Colombia's Presbyterian church denounces 'harassment' by authorities 18-0624
<u>COMMONWEALTH</u>
Tutu rebukes South Africa for stand on Commonwealth and Zimbabwe01-0030
COMMUNICATION
Churches challenged to catch up with information 'revolution'
COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY
Aid group says code for computer workers doesn't meet standards21-0713
CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN CHURCHES (CEC)
European church leaders decry failure to agree on EU constitution

Turkey in EU may act as 'bridge' for Christians and Muslims
CONGO, REPUBLIC OF (BRAZZAVILLE)
Swedish soccer club helps Congo church promote peace among youth 23-0784
CONGO, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF (DRC)
African churches stress need for Congo peace after Rwanda tension 24-0806 Zambians accuse Congolese group of sorcery and witchcraft 24-0807
CONVERSION
Israeli politician's call for Christians to convert Muslims stirs dissent. 03-0080 Indian churches caution against parties exploiting religion in elections. 05-0155 Israeli soldiers convert from Christianity to Judaism under programme 06-0176 Recent Christian converts from Kenya's Mungiki sect face life threats 06-0199 Freed Vanunu says he suffered in Israeli jail because he was a Christian. 08-0252 Sri Lanka church body warns anti-conversion bills will oppress minorities. 14-0455 Sri Lankan Christians welcome court ruling on anti-conversion bill 17-0580 Indian Christians decry 'coerced' conversions to Hinduism
CORRUPTION
Indian church council draws up code to combat church corruption
COUNCIL OF EUROPEAN BISHOPS' CONFERENCES (CCEE)
Churches plan to mobilise at 'make or break' point for Europe
CRIME
Christian leaders in Pakistan threaten protests after killing of pastors 01-0020 Catholic cleric in hit and run first bishop found guilty of a crime in US 04-0099 Bishop in Nigeria orders church closed over theft of sacrament casket 07-0237 UK Anglican priest says media makes girls' murder difficult to forget 12-0395 Communist-era files could help nail killers of Polish priest
CUBA
Orthodox Christians now have a cathedral in Cuba

#### DALITS

Top Lutheran urges anti-apartheid-type support for Dalit 'untouchables' 17-0592 Indian human rights commission censures anti-conversion laws 22-0758
DEBT (THIRD WORLD)
Ask society before running up debt, church group tells Zambian leaders08-0266 Faith community clamours for total cancellation of Malawi debt15-0498 Zambia's ongoing massive external loans worry debt relief group18-0612 Obasanjo condemns corruption, homosexuality in speech to bishops21-0706 World Bank, IMF and World Council of Churches to carry on talking21-0708 Canadian churches criticise richest nations for skirting debt relief21-0709
DECADE TO OVERCOME VIOLENCE (DOV)
World Council of Churches' Kobia lauds US church efforts for peace 05-0150
DEFENCE & DISARMAMENT
Canadian church leaders warn government over missile defence-plan 06-0213
<u>DENMARK</u>
Danish project examines growing complexity of religion in Europe
DEVELOPMENT
Religious, political leaders support UN Cairo conference goals
DIAKONIA
Orthodox in Finland commit to worldwide cooperation for social action09-0299
DIALOGUE
Churches leaders hail thawing India and Pakistan relations
DISASTERS
Relief agencies face long haul in rebuilding Iranian city of Bam

Philippine churches join outpouring of support for typhoon victims 24-0813 Philippines mourns Catholic priest who died saving flood victims 24-0814
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
Australian cleric turned politician gets Churches of Christ award 16-0549 US church leader, rights activist, business leader, dies aged 95 16-0553
DISABLED
Ecumeical disability network starts computer literacy training
DISPLACED
Serbia's Orthodox bishops appeal to UN on Kosovo
DIVESTMENT
Episcopal Church plans to study Israel divestment question 20-0690
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
Humanitarian agencies have hands full in a tense Haiti
EASTER
Orthodox Christians start Lent two days before many others
ECONOMIC
Church leaders warn of Kenya's chasm between poor and rich 22-0741
ECONOMY (MARKET)
Reformed churches ponder whether economic order is heretical
END CHILD PROSTITUTION (ECPAT)
Ecuador church leaders warn that toppling president is no panacea 08-0277 Franciscan monks were first to bring beer to S. America 09-0314
ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (EAA)
Faith community to play bigger role at Bangkok AIDS conference 13-0414
ECUMENICAL CHURCH LOAN FUND (ECLOF)
Small loans give some hope to Zimbabweans living with AIDS

### ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE

Holy Synod of Ecumenical Patriarchate includes non-Turkish clerics  Greek church patches up quarrel with Ecumenical Patriarch over bishor Ecumenical Patriarchate and Greek Orthodox in feud over new bishops. Dispute simmers between Ecumenical Patriarchate and Greek Orthodox  Orthodox in Finland commit to worldwide cooperation for social actions Greek church and Patriarchate reported to have resolved dispute  Ecumenical Patriarch, Vatican condemn Libya death verdict on medics. Ecumenical Patriarch in Istanbul court for dismissal of Bulgarian  Pope John Paul and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomeos meet in Rome  Ecumenical Patriarch's visit to Rome seen as easing tensions  Europe's churches debate Muslim Turkey's entry to EU  Ecumenical Patriarch tells UK Catholics of delight at Pope's gesture Orthodox chuch leaders celebrate Bulgarian Patriarch's birthday  Pope returns relics to patriarch in Catholic gesture to Orthodox	ops
<u>ECUMENISM</u>	
Ukraine churches to cooperate on Christian values and freedom	
EDUCATION	
Germany opens first centre to train Islamic religious education tead HIV-positive children win battle for admission to Kenyan schools  Women now outnumber men at some Scandinavian theology faculties  Nigeria Islamic study centre run by Anglicans yields graduates  Kenya's oldest school pupil sparks debate about adult education  Christian school in Côte d'Ivoire hopes for return to normality  US court affirms denial of scholarship funding for study of theology Scottish Catholic official hopes to find 'common ground' on shared a Catholic group urges Zimbabwe university staff to end strike  Atheist asks US court to rule on schoolchildren's 'under God' pledge Britain's Muslims plan to boost knowledge about Islam in schools  Catholic school challenges Zimbabwe closure orders	01-0029 02-0046 02-0072 03-0077 03-0092 y04-0097 schools 04-0125 05-0162 06-0210 07-0223 09-0303

Churches in Kenya blame increasing school unrest on officials
Kenya government wants Nairobi bishop to repay chaplain's allowance 02-0059
EMPLOYMENT/UNEMPLOYMENT/STRIKES
Church of England to give priests employment rights
ENTERTAINMENT
'I am a committed Christian' says Zimbabwe rapper called blasphemer 08-0263 Renamed Madonna draws notice to Jewish religion, and some flak 19-0661 Tutu moves from pulpit to New York stage
ENVIRONMENT
Stress higher for church employees in Sweden than for others
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Dissidents form protest network in US Episcopal church over gay bishop 02-0053 Launch of new US church alliance scheduled for 2005
<u>ETHICS</u>
Aid agency report alleges 'appalling conditions' for computer workers 03-0085 Germany debates practice of leaving unwanted babies at 'drop hatches' 06-0188 Aid group says code for computer workers doesn't meet standards 21-0713 British, Irish churches look to an ethical bottom line 24-0824
<u>ETHIOPIA</u>
Ethiopian church to receive million-dollar boost for anti-AIDS work 03-0075
<u>EUCHARIST</u>
Danish court backs expulsion of Lutheran who believes in reincarnation 08-0273
EUROPE
US State Department worried by rising anti-Semitism in Europe
EUROPEAN UNION (EU)
Danish project examines growing complexity of religion in Europe

Churches plan to mobilise at 'make or break' point for Europe
<u>EUTHANASIA</u>
German churches give guarded response to plans for 'living wills' 13-0428
EVANGELISM
Thai meeting to draw up blueprint for future of evangelisation
EVANGELICAL
Evangelicals in Chile explain why they are burgeoning
<u>FAITH</u>
Danish court ponders case of church verger believing in reincarnation 05-0141 Danish court backs expulsion of Lutheran who believes in reincarnation 08-0273 Beliefs in hell divide church workers in Finland, but faith is firm 12-0405 Churches, temples and mosques are crucial says UNAIDS chief 14-0463 It's religion of America that inspires Bush says sociologist
FAMILY ISSUES
Philippine Catholics rebut knocks over population boom
FAMINE/DROUGHT
Churches in Kenya take lead in fight against famine
FILMS
Ecumenical award for Russian film that recounts archetypal story

Award-winning film shows Kenya Danish culture clash
FINANCE
African churches examine possibility of launching a Christian bank
FINLAND
Finland's religious leaders want to strengthen inter-faith cooperation03-0087 Orthodox in Finland commit to worldwide cooperation for social action09-0299 Beliefs in hell divide church workers in Finland, but faith is firm12-0405 Finnish theologian forced out of US, returns on new visa20-0692
FOOD/HUNGER
Brazil's Zero Hunger project a modern 'feeding of 5000'
Kenyan churches and government vexed about serious food shortages13-0423
Kenyan churches and government vexed about serious food shortages 13-0423  FRANCE  French church leader censures call for ban on religious symbols at school 01-0006
FRANCE  French church leader censures call for ban on religious symbols at school. 01-0006  French Protestant leader criticises 'hasty' law on religious signs 02-0042
FRANCE  French church leader censures call for ban on religious symbols at school. 01-0006 French Protestant leader criticises 'hasty' law on religious signs 02-0042  FRAUD  Polish archbishop calls for patience after bailiffs raid official residence 07-0226 Church alliance gives backing to Zimbabwe's 'clearout' of graft 08-0262 Australian 'traditional' Anglican urges Zambia church to be outspoken 11-0370 US Catholic bishop denies filing for bankruptcy to skirt responsibility 13-0417
FRANCE  French church leader censures call for ban on religious symbols at school. 01-0006 French Protestant leader criticises 'hasty' law on religious signs 02-0042  FRAUD  Polish archbishop calls for patience after bailiffs raid official residence 07-0226 Church alliance gives backing to Zimbabwe's 'clearout' of graft 08-0262 Australian 'traditional' Anglican urges Zambia church to be outspoken 11-0370 US Catholic bishop denies filing for bankruptcy to skirt responsibility 13-0417 Polish bailiffs seize cars in raid at Gdansk archdiocese 15-0506
FRANCE  French church leader censures call for ban on religious symbols at school01-0006 French Protestant leader criticises 'hasty' law on religious signs02-0042  FRAUD  Polish archbishop calls for patience after bailiffs raid official residence 07-0226 Church alliance gives backing to Zimbabwe's 'clearout' of graft08-0262 Australian 'traditional' Anglican urges Zambia church to be outspoken11-0370 US Catholic bishop denies filing for bankruptcy to skirt responsibility13-0417 Polish bailiffs seize cars in raid at Gdansk archdiocese

Churches in Africa warn Sudan situation is 'genocide in the making'
GERMANY
Intervention of German president on headscarf row angers Catholics
GLOBALISATION
Christians join activists in Mumbai to challenge globalisation
GREECE
Fire ruins much of Mount Athos monastery in Greece
GREEK CATHOLIC

Legislators call for boost in status of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church....05-0146

#### HAITI

Haiti faces humanitarian crisis as rebels continue insurgency
<u>HEALTH</u>
Nigerian agency wants churches to mobilise against fake medicines
HIV/AIDS
Belgian cardinal quotes commandment to back condom use as AIDS shield
HINDUISM
Indian church leader accuses government of promoting Hindu extremism 03-0082 Indian churches caution against parties exploiting religion in elections 05-0155 Indian churches hail the defeat of Hindu-nationalist government 08-0285 Plans for 'Hindu Vatican' in Moscow spark Orthodox ire 09-0310 Church group hails Indian court to reopen Gujarat riot cases

#### HOLY LAND

HOLY LAND
Holy Land church leaders urge Israelis and Palestinians to make peace
HOMOSEXUALITY
Dissidents form protest network in US Episcopal church over gay bishop. 02-0053 Oxford debate organizers regret gay bishop decision to pull out. 05-0148 US debate on gay marriage proves tricky and divisive. 05-0167 African Anglicans give US Episcopal Church three months to repent. 07-0232 Gay priest whose naming as bishop sparked row appointed cathedral dean. 08-0269 Canadian Anglicans now battle it out for church naming rights. 10-0332 Polish church resists gay campaigners whose march sparks clash. 10-0338 Tensions over sexuality spill over for Methodists in United States. 10-0348 Canadian Anglicans elect leader as church considers same-sex blessings. 11-0354 Canadian Anglicans defer decision on same-sex blessings till 2007. 11-0354 Southern Baptist Convention votes to leave Baptist World Alliance. 12-0378 Canadian Anglicans show dismay and delight on gay, lesbians stance. 12-0386 Swedish pastor sentenced to one month in jail for offending homosexuals. 13-0427 Jeffrey John installed as cathedral dean as controversy continues. 13-0432 US foes of same-sex marriage to continue fight despite senate vote. 14-0475 Sexual orientation no reason to violate rights, WARC delegates told. 15-0521 Swedish bishop defends decision to open gay pride festival. 16-0548 One year after approval of gay bishop, no meeting of minds. 16-0555 US Anglicans said to face sanctions over support for gay bishop. 17-0569 Gay US bishop says sexual issues distract from pressing concerns. 18-0627 Canadian churches debate marriage before supreme court. 20-0689 Anglican inquiry calls US bishops to account for gay consecration. 21-0703 Nigeria's Catholics and Pentecostals back condemnation of homosexuality is sue. 21-0705 Obasanjo condemns corruption, homosexuality in speech to bishops. 21-0706 Nigeria's Catholics and Pentecostals back condemnation of homosexuality 21-0707 African Anglican bishops respond to same-sex marriages. 22-0743 Nigeria's Catholics and Pentecostals back condemnation of homosexuality 21-0707 African Anglican bishops respond t
HUMAN RIGHTS
South African church leaders liken Zimbabwe situation to apartheid01-0031 South African church group slams 'shameful' silence on Zimbabwe01-0032 Churches join challenge on US over Guantanamo Bay detainees

US church, human rights groups condemn abuse of Iraqi prisoners
HUMOUR
McDonald's can teach churches about welcome says UK cleric
HUNGARY
Hungarian plan to cut church schools' aid sparks anger
HUNGER (see FOOD/HUNGER)
<u>INDIA</u>
Churches leaders hail thawing India and Pakistan relations

Release of Indian Christian detained in Saudi Arabia commended
Indian churches urge interfaith response to AIDS pandemic
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
Sweden's Sami people want their own congregational structure
INDONESIA
Slaying of Indonesian Presbyterian sparks religious violence fears14-0456 Australia must support Indonesia reforms, says Jesuit report14-0457 Imprisoned Indonesian pastor walks free one year early
INTEGRITY OF CREATION (see JUSTICE, PEACE, CREATION)
INTER-FAITH RELATIONS
Danish project examines growing complexity of religion in Europe
Web cathedral looks to Internet to promote 'stealth evangelism'

#### IRAN

Relief agencies face long haul in rebuilding Iranian city of Bam01-000	1
<u>IRAQ</u>	
US church leaders hail Saddam's capture, urge fair trial	38556028909900128456884
IRELAND	
Irish seminaries face lean times through dwindling candidates	7
<u>ISLAM</u>	
French church leader censures call for ban on religious symbols at school. 01-000 Intervention of German president on headscarf row angers Catholics	78 2 2 10 1 19 5 2 16 2 13 8 3 0 14 15 2 18 8

SE Asian journalists grapple with 'stereotypes' based on religion	0447 0459 0460 0472 0496 0501 0514 0533 0566 076 0748 07789 0803
ISRAEL	7010

#### ITALY

Italy wants to exhume World War II POWs buried near Zimbabwe chapel......01-0034

#### IVORY COAST

Christian school in Côte d'Ivoire hopes for return to normality
<u>JAPAN</u>
Japan interfaith network grateful to Islamic Clerics Association in Iraq08-0256
JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
Jehovah's Witnesses numbers increasing in Poland, data shows
<u>JERUSALEM</u>
Earthquake threat looms for holy sites in Bethlehem and Jerusalem
<u>JEWS</u>
Israeli legislators launch group to forge ties with Christians
JOURNALISM
Journalist from Alsace winner of European religion writer of the year 11-0361 SE Asian journalists grapple with 'stereotypes' based on religion 13-0436 UK Catholic journalist granted award by Anglican leader 14-0453 Christian media body back Thai journalist in case tied to Thai PM 18-0606 More finance needed for religion reporting say journalists
<u>JUDAISM</u>
Israeli soldiers convert from Christianity to Judaism under programme 06-0176
JUSTICE, PEACE, INTEGRITY OF CREATION (JPIC)
Anti-Nazi theologian Bonhoeffer remembered in Denmark
JUSTICE (see PEACE/JUSTICE ISSUES)
Reformed churches declare capitalist ideology 'idolatry and sin' 16-0557 S. Africa churches eye 'delivery to poor and justice' from government 16-0560

#### KASHMIR

Christians decry expulsion order against Dutch priest in Kashmir	09-0286
KAZAKHSTAN	
Religious rights group reports pressure against Baptists in Kazakhstan	15-0508
KENYA	
HIV-positive children win battle for admission to Kenyan schools	02-0058 02-0059 03-0077 04-0108 04-0109 05-0158 05-0159 06-0196 06-0199 07-0230 07-0231 07-0248 09-0305 09-0313 10-0320 10-0345 11-0368 13-0423 14-0462 15-0495 16-0540 16-0563 17-0586 17-0587 18-0610 18-0616 19-0645 20-0669 20-0671 21-0720 22-0740 22-0741 24-0820
KOREA (North)	
German church appeals on behalf of N.Korea train disaster victims  Orthodoxy in divided Korea takes a higher profile  Korean Christians in Holy Land march as churches call for end to 'wall'  North Korean Christians experiencing 'dramatic changes'  Lift sanctions on North Korea, global church body urges  Church leaders to deliberate on peaceful, united, nuclear-free Korea  Church leaders seek reconciliation between US and North Korea  Former envoy says US policy on N. Korea depends on election result  Korean peninsula, site of 'hope' despite new threat of conflict	. 11-0375 . 16-0530 . 16-0531 . 17-0573 . 20-0693 . 21-0725 . 21-0726

KOREA (South)	
South Korean missionaries warned they face terror attacks in Iraq	)461 )531
LAITY	
New York court ruling favours Greek archdiocese versus dissidents 16-0	)552
<u>LAND-MINES</u>	
Church officials in Kenya back campaign to destroy landmines	0820
<u>LAOS</u>	
Asian Christians pray for Laos09-0	287
LATIN AMERICA	
Latin American 'Apostles' stir up debate over God's mandate 15-0	)527
LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (CLAI)	
Latin American 'Apostles' stir up debate over God's mandate	)527
LAUSANNE COMMITTEE FOR WORLD EVANGELIZATION (LCWE)	
Seek holistic approach, Evangelicals advised at Thai conference	
<u>LAW</u>	
Philippine Catholic Church sees politics behind Arroyo death penalty move 01-0 US court affirms denial of scholarship funding for study of theology 04-0 Scandinavian churches accuse Israel of flouting international law on wall 05-0 Anglican faces trial over 'pavement prayer' in Zimbabwe's second city 05-0 Kenyan Christians angered by place of Islamic courts in constitution 06-0 Catholic school challenges Zimbabwe closure orders	0097 0151 0161 0196 0303 0362 0368 0428 0429 0501 0533 0552 0581
<u>LAY</u>	
Religious groups and lay leaders stress 'European spirit' in Poland 06-0	187
LESOTHO	
Lesotho churches in AIDS battle, but 30 per cent infected says first lady 06-0	215

#### LIBERIA

<u>LIBERIA</u>
Nigerian church body calls for ex-Liberian president to be extradited 02-0062 Liberia's new leader looks to reconstruction after long civil war 03-0078
<u>LIBYA</u>
Orthodox urge prayers to save Bulgarians sentenced to death in Libya 09-0295 Ecumenical Patriarch, Vatican condemn Libya death verdict on medics 10-0343
LIECHTENSTEIN
Senior Catholic wants status quo to remain in Liechtenstein
LUTHERAN
Danish court ponders case of church verger believing in reincarnation 05-0141 Danish court backs expulsion of Lutheran who believes in reincarnation 08-0273 US Lutheran leader says presidential campaign skirts key issues 19-0633 Swedish breakaway diocese awaits first bishop and new priests 19-0656 Lutheran bishop from Jerusalem receives Norwegian award
LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF)
Lutheran numbers in Africa soar while those in Europe decline
MACEDONIA (FYROM)
Serbian Patriarch sends condolences to Macedonian prime minister04-0120 Balkan church leader blames Macedonian officials for attack04-0121 Greek Orthodox head in US saddened by Macedonia name decision22-0752
MALAYSIA
Mel Gibson's The Passion comes to Malaysia - but only for Christians 15-0499 Muslim-majority Malaysia to host Christian unity meeting 15-0511 Malaysian leader welcomes Christians to his Muslim country 15-0514
MALAWI
Norwegian agency warns of aid freeze to Malawi over gender issues

Disband fraudulent elections' watchdog, demand Malawi clergy
<u>MARTYRS</u>
Catholics and Mennonites to look at martyrs of the Reformation era15-0491
<u>MEDIA</u>
Polish priest wins case against newspaper that insulted Pope
MENNONITE
Mennonites concerned about missing Vietnam members after assault
METHODIST
Kobia explains why Methodists are at forefront of ecumenism
MEXICO
US pickle boycott ends with agreement to allow Mexicans union., 19-0638
MINISTRY
German church plans psychological tests for potential priests
MINORITIES
Christian leaders in Pakistan threaten protests after killing of pastors01-0020 Churches demand justice and safety from new Indian government

Catholic cardinal Ratzinger defends Pope's actions on ecumenism
MIRACLES
Kenyan church leaders angry about evangelist's claim of 'miracle babies' 17-0586 WCC official warns over Kenya 'miracle babies' claim 18-0616
MISSION/MISSIONARY
India's churches to commemorate Protestant missionaries in 2006
MORALITY
Bush re-election propelled by moral concerns, evangelical support 22-0734 Ohio seen representing US battle of morals
MUSIC
Digital hymn device, boon for congregations, worry for organists
<u>MYANMAR</u>
Cardinal tells Myanmar Christians: faith will help combat problems 24-0816
<u>NAMIBIA</u>
Germany challenged to accept responsibility for Namibian slaughter 02-0043
<u>NEPAL</u>
Lutherans say Nepal bomb attack detrimental to humanitarian work 08-0259
NETHERLANDS TO THE PROPERTY OF
Dutch Protestant churches give green light to 2004 merger
NEW ZEALAND
Bishop elected by Maori church heads New Zealand, Polynesia Anglicans 11-0372

#### NIGERIA

Christians mourn Arafat's loss to Palestinians; see risk, opportunity 22-0735 Arafat laid to rest as church leaders in Holy Land pray for peace 23-0769 US missionary surgeon who fought cancer in Korea dies 23-0780 Philippines mourns Catholic priest who died saving flood victims 24-0814  ORTHODOX (EASTERN & ORIENTAL)
Russian conducts burial service for Beijing's 'last' Orthodox priest
Patriarch urges Serbes: Refrain from revenge over Kosovo violence
Israel shifts police officer, accused affair with Orthodox official's wife. 09-0291 Orthodox urge prayers to save Bulgarians sentenced to death in Libya 09-0295 Ecumenical Patriarchate and Greek Orthodox in feud over new bishops 09-0296 Dispute simmers between Ecumenical Patriarchate and Greek Orthodox 09-0297 Serbia celebrations are largest Orthodox gathering in region since 1960s 09-0298 Orthodox in Finland commit to worldwide cooperation for social action 09-0299 Plans for 'Hindu Vatican' in Moscow spark Orthodox ire 09-0310
Greek church and Patriarchate reported to have resolved dispute
Europe's churches debate Muslim Turkey's entry to EU
Orthodox Patriarch of Alexandria laid to rest in Africa
Theology belittled in Europe, Orthodox conference told
Churches in Ukraine swirl in political turmoil

## PAKISTAN

PARISIAN
Churches leaders hail thawing India and Pakistan relations
PALESTINE
Catholic bishops condemn Israel's security wall blocking Palestinians01-0002 'Holy Land church leaders urge Israelis and Palestinians to make peace01-0003 Archbishop of Canterbury says Middle East violence is a symbol of despair02-0064 Scandinavian churches accuse Israel of flouting international law on wall05-0151 Greek Orthodox in Jerusalem mourn killing of Palestinian Christian06-0171 Father of slain Arab urges Palestinian leaders: Stop violent incitement08-0289 Palestinian wall hunger strike gets support of Christian volunteers14-0482 Christian peace activists attacked in West Bank city of Hebron19-0641 Israeli and Palestinian issue warning on Israel's security barrier19-0642 Christians mourn Arafat's loss to Palestinians; see risk, opportunity22-0735 Arafat laid to rest as church leaders in Holy Land pray for peace23-0769
<u>PANAMA</u>
Anglican bishop in Panama warns against hyping electoral promises 08-0278
PENTECOSTAL & CHARISMATIC
Copenhagen's Pentecostalists seek inspiration from 'Catholic' symbols 03-0086 Indian church dismisses two bishops for part in Pentecostal ceremony 04-0114 Hayford selected to head Pentecostal group; Evangelicals draft guidelines 13-0420 World church body 'needs changes' to reach booming Pentecostals 16-0554 Learn from Pentecostals and unite to fight globalization 16-0558 Pentecostalism beneficial for ecumenism say Kobia in Chile
Church, rights groups, EU urge Philippines to stay executions

Philippine police worried about anti-gambling bishop's security
<u>PILGRIMAGES</u>
Latin Patriarch urges Christian pilgrims to keep coming to Holy Land 07-0220 Papal plan to visit France draws dissent from Protestants 15-0503
POLAND
Polish church leader dismisses complaint about 'anti-Semitic' bookshop01-0011 Polish church leaders not happy with ecumenical progress
POPE/POPE'S TRAVEL
Polish priest wins case against newspaper that insulted Pope
PORNOGRAPHY
Pope appoints special investigator for Austrian seminary scandal
POVERTY
Bishop, Nobel Laureate, and rights groups decry fuel tax in Nigeria
PRESBYTERIAN
Canadian Anglicans show dismay and delight on gay, lesbians stance 12-0382 US Presbyterian Church draws Jewish criticism for Israel resolutions 15-0487
PRISONS
Catholics and Anglicans decry the 'hell' of Nigeria's prisons

Ministry to ex-convicts overwhelmed by US president's support
PROTESTANT
Tensions escalate among Dutch Reformed ahead of Protestant merger
PUERTO RICO
Religious leaders in Puerto Rico help islanders on identity
RACISM/RACE RELATIONS
Ex-director of WCC Programme to Combat Racism gets S. African award 12-0404 WCC honours Programme to Combat Racism and its first director 19-0644
RADIO/TV
Rights groups condemn action against Christian broadcaster in Zimbabwe 01-0033 BBC programme torpedoes Noah's Ark story
RECONCILIATION/REUNIFICATION
Dutch urged to use year's extra day to end a personal quarrel
REFORMED
Tensions escalate among Dutch Reformed ahead of Protestant merger 06-0183 Reformed push up Lutheran federation numbers by 2 million plus 18-0629
REFUGEES/DISPLACED PERSONS
Canadian denomination criticises police for violating church 'sanctuary'06-0212 Refugee crisis forces Christians in Nigeria to celebrate Easter in open air 07-0236 WCC leader attacks Australia on asylum-seekers and Aboriginal people13-0408 Churches applaud after Australian government shift on refugees14-0458 Canadian churches and government at odds over 'sanctuary'for 'deportees'17-0577

## RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

RELIGIOUS COMMONTITES
Europe's biggest Protestant sisterhood tries to undo waning trend04-0124 Attack on Mother Teresa's nuns condemned
RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS/SECTS
Plans for 'Hindu Vatican' in Moscow spark Orthodox ire
RELIGIOUS RIGHTS/FREEDOM
Ahead of elections, Spanish Protestants complain of discrimination
RESOURCE SHARING
South African Presbyterian leader pledges help to Zambia, Zimbabwe14-0471
RETIREMENTS
Retiring Zambian Catholic leader to continue fight for free media 16-0543 Zambian bishop chides Kaunda over independence fighters' plight 22-0739
ROMAN CATHOLIC
Catholic bishops condemn Israel's security wall blocking Palestinians

Harsh persecution of Christians rife in Asia, says Catholic report
ROMANIA
Bucharest mayor's threat to cathedral on communist mausoleum stirs row 07-0225 Romanian city, European cultural capital, to host inter-church assembly 20-0681
RUSSIA
Russian church issues 'Ten Commandments' to promote clean business
RWANDA
World pondors Rwanda genocide 10 years later
SACRAMENTS
Can baptism unlock the door to church unity?

## SAINTS

SAINTS
Ecumenical Patriarch tells UK Catholics of delight at Pope's gesture 22-0751 Pope returns relics to patriarch in Catholic gesture to Orthodox 24-0790
SATAN
Law ordering prisons to consider all religions, even Satanism, faces review 21-0712
SAUDI ARABIA
US State Department adds Saudi Arabia to religious freedom abuse list 18-0623 Release of Indian Christian detained in Saudi Arabia commended 22-0759
SCANDINAVIA
Women now outnumber men at some Scandinavian theology faculties02-0046 Sweden's Sami people want their own congregational structure10-0336
SEXUAL ABUSE
Survey finds more than 11 000 allegations of clergy sex abuse
SEXUALITY
Draft law for schools sex instruction splits Argentine churches
SEX TOURISM
Thai government, NGOs, World Vision link to fight sex tourism22-0756
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST
Seventh-day Adventist Church shows growth; now 13.6 million 20-0691
SHRINES
Tough times still blight Bethlehem's prospects
SLAVERY
Ghana's dungeons prompt soul-searching on church role in slavery 15-0523
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Two Protestant social service institutions in Germany to merge
Aid agency report alleges 'appalling conditions' for computer workers 03-0085 Kenyan government halts slum demolitions, at the urging of churches 05-0159 Making Netherlands a more tolerant society is aim of church group 13-0430 Some Nigerian Christian leaders blame government for strike 20-0664

SOLOMON ISLANDS
Avoid 'we know better' approach, Australian aid director tells government 09-0288
SOMALIA
Christian aid groups in Somalia pledge to go on despite Muslim censure 08-0264 Somali Christians at Kenya talks say they face pressure to join Islam 15-0496 Breakthrough in Somali peace talks seen as president elected 20-0668
SOUTH AFRICA
Tutu rebukes South Africa for stand on Commonwealth and Zimbabwe
SPAIN
Church leaders revile 'blind violence' of Madrid bomb blasts
SPIRITUALITY
'People want to experience God,' says Denmark's full-time spiritual guide 04-0130 Survey finds religious commitment strongest among US arts students 08-0276 Nearly two-thirds in US use Internet for religious reasons 10-0346 New Age offers 'spirituality that the Church lacks' says Lutheran
SPORT
Saturday match averts 'Never on Sunday' protest for N. Ireland team

Swedish soccer club helps Congo church promote peace among youth23-0784
SRI LANKA
Sri Lankan churches warn of campaign against Christians
<u>STATISTICS</u>
Women now outnumber men at some Scandinavian theology faculties
SUDAN
Sudan churches, rebels and civil society in mediation to build peace
SURVEYS, POLLS, etc.
Survey finds more than 11 000 allegations of clergy sex abuse
SWAZILAND
South African archbishop leads group to address Swaziland 'crisis'

## SWEDEN

Church of Sweden members dwindle, funding seen dropping off
SWITZERLAND
Pope cheered by young Christians, but snubbed by Swiss Protestants
SYMBOL
French church leader censures call for ban on religious symbols at school. 01-0006 French Protestant leader criticises 'hasty' law on religious signs. 02-0042 Copenhagen's Pentecostalists seek inspiration from 'Catholic' symbols. 03-0086 Protestant leader backs scarf ban but resists veto on religious symbols. 07-0222 Gandhi as Madonna and Singh as Jesus in cartoon angers Christians. 10-0323 Swedish Lutheran leader pleads for Muslims to be given a chance. 14-0447 German ban on religious symbols in schools may affect nuns. 20-0682
TAIWAN
Taipei interfaith seminar addresses future of water resources24-0812
TANZANIA
Anglican bishop urges dialogue after Zanzibar church torching 21-0719
TERRORISM
South Korean missionaries warned they face terror attacks in Iraq
THAILAND
Thai Buddhist retreat offers haven for all faiths
THEOLOGY
US court affirms denial of scholarship funding for study of theology 04-0097 Scottish church leader named president of Princeton Theological Seminary 07-0227 Archbishop of Canterbury offers prize for theological writing 14-0452 Finnish theologian forced out of US because of visa rule changes 15-0489

De-westernise theology, WCC leader urges before Catholic academics 17-0575 Anti-Nazi theologian Bonhoeffer remembered in Denmark
TOURISM
Human and wildlife resource rivalry concerns Kenya churches 10-0345
TRADITIONAL RELIGIONS/BELIEFS
Nigerian church leaders denounce 'ritual killings'
TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
Zambia's Catholic Church sanctions herbal medicine
TRAFFICKING
Kenyan church leaders angry about evangelist's claim of 'miracle babies' 17-0586
TURKEY
Holy Synod of Ecumenical Patriarchate includes non-Turkish clerics
<u>UGANDA</u>
US church told to stay away from enthronement of Ugandan archbishop 02-0060 Uganda's Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative wins Niwano Prize 04-0104 Catholic priest rebuts charge he supports Uganda Lords Resistance Army 04-0105 Catholic bishop blasts Uganda for muzzling opposition parties
UKRAINE
Ukraine churches to cooperate on Christian values and freedom
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
Albanian bishop offers \$600 000 for restoration of church and mosque 06-0179 Serbia celebrations are largest Orthodox gathering in region since 1960s 09-0298 Serbia's Orthodox bishops appeal to UN on Kosovo
<u>UNION/UNITY</u>
Dutch Protestant churches give green light to 2004 merger

Europe now a 'mission field' for Christianity, says WCC's Kobia
UNITED/UNITING
Canadian church women leave after HIV/AIDS study tour in Zambia06-0204
UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES (UBS)
In Holy Land, Bible societies celebrate 200 years since founding 05-0169
UNITED KINGDOM
Britain's Muslims plan to boost knowledge about Islam in schools
<u>England</u>
Cross on eternal journey arrives in London
Scotland
Scottish Catholic official hopes to find 'common ground' on shared schools. 04-0125 War on terror makes world more unsafe says Church of Scotland report 08-0254 Church of Scotland Moderator calls for stronger European identity 12-0392 Recruitment boom for aspirant Church of Scotland clergy 18-0625
<u>Wales</u>
Northern Ireland
Saturday match averts 'Never on Sunday' protest for N. Ireland team 01-0017
UNITED NATIONS & UN AGENCIES
Franciscans condemn Israel's barrier at UN body, which is itself panned06-0175 WCC's Kobia meets UN chief; criticises US policy in Iraq10-0328 US, European, Canadian church leaders meet Annan, urge UN Iraq role10-0329

African Churches urged to increase role in fighting AIDS
UN world heritage body sounds alarm for Cologne Cathedral
Churches, temples and mosques are crucial says UNAIDS chief
Global Fund to work more closely with faith-based groups in AIDS fight 14-0464
Serbia's Orthodox bishops appeal to UN on Kosovo
UN is indispensable but must reflect realities, say world church leaders 18-0615
Meeting highlights role of religion in combating female genital mutilation. 19-0646
Religious, political leaders support UN Cairo conference goals21-0711
African churches urge UN action for peace in Sudan
Sudan and southern rebels promise peace as Christmas gift
Sudanese demonstrate outside UN Security Council in Nairobi

# UNITED STATES

US Lutheran leader says presidential campaign skirts key issues	19-0633
Arizona diocese becomes second in US to file for bankruptcy	19-0634
US church group reject claims of anti-Israel bias	
Presbyterian leader, members of US Congress row over Israel	19-0636
US pickle boycott ends with agreement to allow Mexicans union	19-0638
Bulgarian president pleads for church unity; US notes religious limits	
Finnish theologian forced out of US, returns on new visa	20-0692
It's religion of America that inspires Bush says sociologist	
New campaign on global poverty gets global church and NGO backing	
Law ordering prisons to consider all religions, even Satanism, faces review	
Church leaders seek reconciliation between US and North Korea	
Former envoy says US policy on N. Korea depends on election result	
Survey finds US Muslims deserting Bush for Kerry	
Religious leaders in Puerto Rico help islanders on identity	
Bush re-election propelled by moral concerns, evangelical support	
Nigerian Anglican leader lauds Bush for stand on same-sex marriages	
Greek Orthodox head in US saddened by Macedonia name decision	
Indian Christian leader urges Bush to promote religious freedom	
Ohio seen representing US battle of morals	
Jewish groups condemn threat to US Presbyterian church over Israel	
Evangelist Billy Graham starts to wind down his revival trail	
US academic at odds with some churches on sex abstinence	
'Hollywood be Thy name'	
US court's refusal on gay marriage case seen as gain by gay activist	
US Muslim TV station seeks to build bridges	
Canadian Lutheran bishop rejects Bush call on missile defence	24-0817

## UNITY (see UNION & UNITY)

#### VATICAN

Survey finds more than 11 000 allegations of clergy sex abuse 04-0098
Vatican's Kasper sees progress in Moscow talks with Orthodox04-0118
Church of England says proposals on Papal authority require further study. 04-0119
Pope's 25 years mark signs of change in church
Russian Orthodox cautiously optimistic about future of Vatica relations 05-0145
Legislators call for boost in status of Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church 05-0146
Pope's poems join best-seller lists
Israeli refusal to renew visas triggers crisis say Catholics06-0173
Vatican envoy rebukes Israeli officials over visas to Christians 06-0174
Kobia says WCC will continue to deepen relations with Catholics 07-0240
Danish court backs expulsion of Lutheran who believes in reincarnation 08-0273
Kerry, Vatican discord elevates abortion issue in US election campaign 08-0275
Pope celebrates his 84th birthday with a new book on his life
Ecumenical Patriarch, Vatican condemn Libya death verdict on medics 10-0343
Polish shrine displays Papal shooting memento
Serbian Orthodox church pledges closer ties with Roman Catholics 12-0396
Volatile situation in Philippines worries Vatican, says bishop 12-0399
Pope John Paul and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomeos meet in Rome13-0406
Ecumenical Patriarch's visit to Rome seen as easing tensions
Austrian theologian criticises plans to beatify last Habsburg emperor 13-0433
Pope appoints special investigator for Austrian seminary scandal14-0448
Catholic cardinal Ratzinger defends Pope's actions on ecumenism
Pope's return of Russian icon raises hopes of détente with Orthodox 17-0571
Vatican document stirs debate among Philippine women
Vatican hits out at 'new wave' of Chinese repression
Pope returns relics to patriarch in Catholic gesture to Orthodox24-0790
Cardinal tells Myanmar Christians: faith will help combat problems 24-0816

#### VENEZUELA

Evangelicals left on opposite sides in Venezuelan referendum
VIETNAM
Mennonites concerned about missing Vietnam members after assault
VIOLENCE/ NON-VIOLENCE
Zimbabwe bishop leads initiative to get voters to reject violence
WARS/CONFLICTS
US church leaders hail Saddam's capture, urge fair trial

Sudan ceasefire teeters amid calls for action to sustain hope
WITCHCRAFT
Zambians accuse Congolese group of sorcery and witchcraft
<u>WOMEN</u>
Canadian churches plan campaign on violence against Aboriginal women
WOMEN'S ORDINATION
Women now outnumber men at some Scandinavian theology faculties
WORLD ALLIANCE OF REFORMED CHURCHES (WARC)
Reformed churches ponder whether economic order is heretical
WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATION (WACC)
Christian media body back Thai journalist in case tied to Thai PM

## WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (WCC)

New WCC leader Kobia says inter-faith dialogue a top priority	
WCC general secretary says his election boosts confidence of Africans	01-0036
Kobia explains why Methodists are at forefront of ecumenism	01-0037
WCC's Raiser looks forward to 'ecumenism of the people'	
WCC demands that Israel halt construction of barrier and dismantle it	
To resonance of African music, Kobia installed as WCC general secretary	
World Council of Churches' Kobia lauds US church efforts for peace	
Church bodies urge UN to take them seriously in Kosovo peace-building	06-0180
World Council of Churches' Kobia seeks blessing at Kenyan birthplace	07-0230
WCC delegation to Kenya blesses African continent, sees hope	
Kobia says WCC will continue to deepen relations with Catholics	07-0240
WCC faces challenge of relevance, Australian church council official warns.	07-0241
Ecumeical disability network starts computer literacy training	07-0248
Christian denominations acknowledge inaction on Rwanda genocide	
Orthodox in Finland commit to worldwide cooperation for social action	09-0299
WCC's Kobia meets UN chief; criticises US policy in Iraq	
Former Canadian Anglican and WGC leader Ted Scott killed in crash	
WCC leader attacks Australia on asylum-seekers and Aboriginal people	
Asia's religious mix sets good example, says WCC's Kobia	
Faith community to play bigger role at Bangkok AIDS conference	
Resistance to Hitler's tyranny earns past WCC leader German honour	
In dealings with Cold War dissidents, former WCC leader rues failings	
Palestinian wall hunger strike gets support of Christian volunteers	
Iraq bombings draw condemnation from Christian leaders	
Muslim-majority Malaysia to host Christian unity meeting	
Europe now a 'mission field' for Christianity, says WCC's Kobia	
Denominational divide imperils Christianity, says African theologian	
Malaysian leader welcomes Christians to his Muslim country	
Can baptism unlock the door to church unity?	
Malaysia church unity meeting ends with renewed commitment	
World church body 'needs changes' to reach booming Pentecostals	
Churches challenged to catch up with information 'revolution'	
Lift sanctions on North Korea, global church body urges	
Enrich rest of Christianity, Kobia urges Asian churches	
De-westernise theology, WCC leader urges before Catholic academics	
WCC calls for peacekeepers and war crimes probe in Sudan	17-0583
South Asia churches set up task force to fight child rights' violations	18-0608
Church leaders in Africa warn of land conflict after Kenya dispute	
Global church heads query Sudan's sincerity on ending Darfur turmoil	
UN is indispensable but must reflect realities, say world church leaders	
WCC official warns over Kenya 'miracle babies' claim	
WCC's Kobia to meet Canada's Aboriginal communities	
WCC honours Programme to Combat Racism and its first director	
Trading, and possession, of nuclear weapons denounced by WCC head	
WCC's Kobia salutes Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai	
Poverty and weapons of mass destruction in same camp: WCC's Kobia	
Church leaders to deliberate on peaceful, united, nuclear-free Korea	
World Bank, IMF and World Council of Churches to carry on talking	
Former envoy says US policy on N. Korea depends on election result	
Korean peninsula, site of 'hope' despite new threat of conflict	
Sudanese women describe how they are deliberate targets of violence	
Corrupted churches need revitalising, Hong Kong meeting told	
Draft law for schools sex instruction splits Argentine churches	
Pentecostalism beneficial for ecumenism sav Kobia in Chile	
TOHECOUST CHIEF TO LEGISLATION OF THE LIGHT SAY NODIA III CHIEF	C1 0010

## WORLD STUDENT CHRISTIAN FEDERATION (WSCF)

Christian students called to show solidarity with victims of globalisation, 17-0582

#### WORSHIP

WORSHIP TO THE PROPERTY OF THE
Kenyan churches back road safety drive despite dwindling congregations
YOUTH
Cross on eternal journey arrives in London
ZAMBIA
Zambian church calls for 'more responsible' national budget
Tutu rebukes South Africa for stand on Commonwealth and Zimbabwe

Court African abunch group along Jahamafull ailangs on Zimbahus
South African church group slams 'shameful' silence on Zimbabwe
Italy wants to exhume World War II POWs buried near Zimbabwe chapel 01-0034
Churches flourish as Zimbabweans seek divine help in crisis
Zimbabwe bishop leads initiative to get voters to reject violence
Zimbabwe church's gift to Mugabe stirs controversy
Zimbabwe church agency warns against upsurge in football hooliganism 04-0112
South African churches appeal to Mbeki to promote dialogue in Zimbabwe04-0160
Anglican faces trial over 'pavement prayer' in Zimbabwe's second city 05-0161
Catholic group urges Zimbabwe university staff to end strike
Mugabe praises role played by German Catholic bishop in 'struggle' 05-0163
Zimbabwe pastors vow to defy the police and pray for their nation 06-0194
Zimbabwe pastor says gift to Mugabe has opened doors for dialogue 06-0195
Zimbabwe clerics appeal for urgent government-opposition talks
Zimbabwe spurned Methodist's advice on land reform: newspaper 07-0235
Church alliance gives backing to Zimbabwe's 'clearout' of graft08-0262
'I am a committed Christian' says Zimbabwe rapper called blasphemer 08-0263
Tutu calls for England cricket.boycott of Zimbabwe
Small loans give some hope to Zimbabweans living with AIDS
Catholic school challenges Zimbabwe closure orders
Zimbabwe church leaders at odds over land reform programme
Zimbabwe's Mugabe lays into Tutu and Catholic bishop Ncube
New Catholic archbishop seen as boosting peace talks in Zimbabwe 12-0388
S. African government complicit in Zimbabwe abuses, says archbishop 13-0421
Once seen as evil, mbira music now popular in Zimbabwe churches
Catholic cardinal asks S. Africa to consider sanctions against Zimbabwe14-0465
Mbeki's 'quiet diplomacy' on Zimbabwe has failed, say SA churches14-0467
South African Presbyterian leader pledges help to Zambia, Zimbabwe 14-0471
Zimbabwe church leaders denounce tribal remarks about new bishop 16-0538
South African church body wants to act as Zimbabwe peace broker
Bishop criticises Zimbabwe poll reform, as opposition announces boycott 17-0584
Mugabe clashes with new Zimbabwe archbishop over human rights
Zimbabwe church groupings deplore government bids to split them
Malawian president halts prayer vigil for troubled Zimbabwe
Proposed Zimbabwe clampdown on NGOs faces church opposition
Zimbabwean government moves to acquire church land
Zimbabwean media regulatory body attacks Catholic bishops
Protection racket shelters Zimbabwe, says former SA Methodist leader 23-0786
Zimbabwe pastors take HIV tests in stand against prejudice24-0796

\*\*\*\*\*\*